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small medial interoccipital. Eye small, resting on the labials, which are not pitted; pre- and postoculars present; pupil elliptic, erect. Teeth slightly longer on the anterior parts of the dentigerous bones than on the posterior. Intermaxillary bone toothless; supraorbital bone none.

L. bicolor possesses three postocular plates; one large preocular is extensively in contact with the vertical; the latter plate presents an obtuse angle anteriorly, and is nine-sided. Superior labials ten, fourth and fifth entering the orbit. Twelve inferior labials. One pair of very narrow geneials, with a sulcus between them, and separated from the labials laterally by a single narrow plate on each side. Scales in thirty-four longitudinal rows; those of the inferior, half as wide as the gastrosteges. The tail and upper surface of the body, between the fourth rows of scales on each side, are of a rich purplish brown. Belly, chin, and upper labials yellow. One specimen brought by Capt. J. M. Dow, from La Union, San Salvador, and presented to the Smithsonian Institution. No. 4948.

April 16*th*.

Mr. Lea, President, in the Chair.

Thirty-nine members present.

A paper was presented for publication, entitled

"Description of a new genus (Strephobasis) of the family Melaniadæ, and three new species, by Isaac Lea," and was referred to a Committee.

Dr. Leidy mentioned that lignite had been discovered at the border of the new red sandstone on Plymouth Creek, near Norristown, Pa.

The death of Dr. John E. Evans, a correspondent of the Academy, was announced; he died at Washington, D. C., on the 13th inst.

A communication was made by Mr. Theo. Gill on several new generic types of fishes contained in the museum of the Smithsonian Institution.

The first was referred provisionally to the Agonoids, as an Agonoid under the guise of a *Peristedion*. It presented a very strong resemblance to the representatives of the latter genus, and would doubtless, at the first glance, be conceived to be very nearly allied to them. But with the same form as *Peristedion*, it has the head constructed on essentially the same plan as that of a true *Agonus*. The first suborbital bone expands inferiorly; the second covers the cheek, and both are armed with an inferior submarginal crest: the crest of the second has a median curved spine, from which radiating grooves and ridges advance on the surface. The snout, like that of *Agonus*, has on each side two spines, one horizontal and the other curved backwards. The dorsal fin is separated by several plates from the head. The thoracic region is covered with about three rows of more or less hexagonal plates, except in front, where there are only two plates. The ventral fins are approximated, and received in an elongated triangular groove or furrow. In allusion to the last named peculiarity, the genus was named *Podothecus*.

The family of Agonoids is now increased by this addition so as to include at least five described genera; they are the following:

Podothecus *Gill.*
Agonus *Bloch* = Aspidophorus *Swainson.*
Brachyopsis *Gill* = Agonus *Swainson.*
Hippocephalus *Swainson.*
Aspidophoroides *Lac.* = Canthirhynchus *Swainson.*

The new Agonoid was obtained by Dr. Kennerly, the zoologist of the Northwestern boundary Survey, at Washington Territory, and will be fully described and figured in the report on the fishes collected by the naturalists of that expedition.

The next form noticed was also claimed to be most worthy of attention on account of the singular combination of characters which it presented, and which might render even the family to which it belongs a question of doubt. Yet the resemblance to the genus *Genyoroge* of Cantor or *Diacope* of Cuvier was so very great, that the speaker affirmed there was positively no external character to distinguish them as genera except the position of the anterior nostrils. Those nostrils, in the fish under consideration, were short tubes present at the margin of the snout; that character was very characteristic, and by it the genus was easily distinguished from all other allied forms.

On examining the dentition and the branchiostegal membrane, remarkable differences are also found between it and the Lutjaninæ. The former have a dentition much like that of *Serranus*, but the new fish was said to have more or less *blunt conical teeth*, like the Pagrine Sparoids, both on the jaws and the vomer. There were *no palatine teeth*. In each jaw there are four large and robust teeth in front; behind, there is a row of smaller ones: behind the row of the upper jaw, is at least one row of smaller molar or pisiform ones, and behind the corresponding row of the lower, there is, on each side, one molar. There are also three short and very obtuse conical molars on the front of the vomer. Only five branchiostegal rays could be detected on each side.

The speaker alluded to this form, as affording additional evidence of the intimate connection that exists between the Percoids and the Sparoids, and added, that if the armature of the preoperculum and the dentition of the vomer were not taken into account, it might with almost equal propriety be referred to the Sparoids or the Percoids. Dr. Günther, by admitting the *Pimelepterina* in the family of Sparoids, has refused to acknowledge the presence or absence of teeth on the palatine arch as a character of family value in those fishes, and with his limitation the present genus would belong to that family. But the speaker preferred to regard it as the type of a distinct sub-family, intermediate between the Lutjaninæ and the Pagrinæ, and named it Hoplopagrinæ. The genus was called *Hoplopagrus*. The speaker promised to describe the species hereafter, and in testimony of his appreciation of the advances rendered by Dr. Günther towards a more natural classification of the Sparoids, Pristipomatoids and allied groups, would dedicate it to that gentleman.

In connection with the subject, the cases of the genera *Haploidinotus*, *Corvina*, and *Rhinoscion* were alluded to. The resemblance between the first and last two genera was very strong. That between *Haploidinotus* and *Corvina* was indeed so great, that there were no external characters which alone would be sufficient to justify their separation as even genera; but an examination of the pharyngeal bones demonstrates that they are not even members of the same natural sub-family. *Rhinoscion*, established for the *Amblodon saturnus* of Girard, affords a less close analogical resemblance to *Haploidinotus*.

Mr. Gill also corrected an erroneous reference to a genus made in the catalogue of the fishes of the eastern coast of North America. He had there referred the three American species of the *Monacanthi* of Cuvier to the genus *Cantherines* or *Canthorhinus* of Swainson, not daring without further evidence to propose for them a distinct one. Having since been able to examine the description of the species given in the zoology of Freycinet's voyage in the library of the Academy, he found that our species were generically different, and proposed to confer on them the name of *Stephanolepis*, in allusion to the crown-like crest with which the central part of each scale is adorned. The *Monacanthus setifer* of Bennett may be considered as the type. The speaker had never seen specimens of the *Monacanthus broccus* of Dekay, and could not say whether it was congeneric with the other two species or not.